





Newes and Strange
Newes from St. *Cbristophers*
of a tempestuous Spirit, which
is called by the Indians a *Harry-*
Cano or whirlewind.

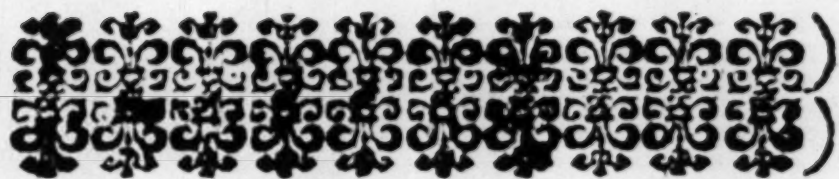
Which hapneth in many of those Ilands
of *America* or the *West-Indies*,
as it did in *August* last, a-
bout the 5. day. 1638.

Blowing downe houses, tearing up trees
by the *rootes*, and it did puste men up
from the earth, as they had beene
Feathers, killing divers men.

Whereunto is added the true and last relation of
the dreadfull accident which hapned at *Wi-*
thicombe in *Devonshire* the 21. of
October last past.

Imprinted at *London* by *P. O.* for *Francis*
Conles dwelling in the *Old-Baily*.
1638.

1
f
n
.
.
.
i
r
n
o
l
h
m
o



New and Strange News
from *St. Christophers*, of a
tempestuous Spirit, which is cal-
led by the *Indians* a *Hurry Cano*,
which happeneth in many of those
Islands of *America*, or the
West-Indies, as it did in
August last the 5.
1638.

GOD, who is every way in-
finite and incomprehen-
sible, is pleased sometimes
in his just Judgments, to punish or
restraine by Terrours and Affrigh-
tings, most obstinate and rebelli-
ous sinners: for those that will not
lovingly be allured to obey him for
his Goodnesse and unspeakable
Mercies, will be fearefully infor-
ced to abide the rigour of his most
A 3 upright

upright and severe Justice, by which meanes *Hee makes his wayes to be knowne upon Earth, and his saving health amongst all Nations.* And it is to be noted, that where God is least knowne and honoured, there the Devill hath most power and domination. But hee that drew light out of darknesse, hath often (and can when he wil) draw good out of evill: for through slavery and bondage many people and Nations that were Heathens, and barbarous, have beene happily brought to Civility and Christian Liberty. The Great *Alexanders* conquests, those whom hee overcame, learned to build Townes, Cities, and defensible places, to apparrell their naked bodies, in their thraldome they found Religion: and whereas in their Freedomes they did use to kill their aged Parents inhumanely, to cate them with savadge, ravenous

(3)

venous, most greedy Gormandizing, by Servitude they learned more reverend Duty ; they were taught the Rites and Lawes of Matrimony : And whereas in their licentious freedome, they bedded with their Mothers , Sisters, Daughters, and Nieces, not sparing any Kindred, Aliance, Propinquity, or any degree of blood or consanguinity, they by Servitude learned better life and manners; and also by being conquer'd and overcome, they were taught the use of Armes, the practice of Arts, and the laudable Experience of Tillage and Husbandry. And such as these rude people were in ancient times; even such were the first Inhabitants of this our Island of great *Britaine*, untill such time as more civiller Nations did conquer, tame, and teach us.

Yet in the latest Daies of the World all are not civilliz'd ; there

A 4 are

are yet many Heathens , *Indians*, and barbarous Nations unconverted: as for the knowne Examples in *America*, and in divers Islands adjacent, where this *Hurri Cano* is frequent ; of which with the manner of the Description of it as followeth.

From whence the name of it is derived, I know not; but the *Indians* doe call it *Hurri Cano*, or *Hurri Cana*, or *Caniz* : some say that it comes to the same place once in five yeares, but that is uncertaine, for it hath no certaine or set times of either yeares or dayes for the coming of it. It is held by the Natives to be a Spirit, it comes with such an extraordinary violence, with Thunder, Lightning, and impetuous gusts of winde, (as it hath done many times) for it touches not all places there, but sometimes it comes but once, or never in a mans age to one place, and

and more often to another, according as it is sway'd or hurried with its owne robustuous motion, or as the influences and force of the Planets doe drive it : and the *Indians* are so skilfull, that they doe know two or three or foure dayes before hand of the coming of it , and then they doe make provision to prevent the harme which it may doe unto them , by such meanes as shall be related in the latter end of this Treatise: the *Indians* doe know when it will come, by the markes or signes here mentioned. They doe observe that just so many daies as it will be before the *Harri Cano* doth come , so many Circles will bee as it were fringed and gleaming about the Moone: as if it bee but one day before it come , then there will be but one Circle ; if two Circles , then it will be two daies ; and so perhaps three or foure Circles , as it did lately

at Saint *Christophers*, where it came in that fearefull and unresistable fury, on the fifth day of *August* last, 1638. Where, although that the *Dutch* and *English* had warning of the coming of it, by the knowledge that the *Indians* had by observation of the Moone and the Circles, and that all possible meanes was used for the safeguard of men, ships, and goods, yet when it came, the force of it was so great, and continued so vehemently the space of foure dayes and nights without intermission, that maugre all the industry that could be, it sunke five Shippes, whereof two were *English*, and three were *Dutch*; and of *Englishmen*, *Dutchmen*, and *Indians*, it did drowne and kill to the number of Seventy and five persons, besides the harme it did to many Houses and goods.

Where

Where the *Here* or *Hurri Cano* comes, the Winde doth blow so strong and forcible, that it will puffle men from the ground into the Aire five or sixe foote high, as if they were no more but ragges, clouts, or feathers, and so violent it is, that it leaves not a leafe upon any Bough or Tree : and likewise it overthroweth many Trees, rending them up by the roots, so that the Inhabitants (when they are warned of the comming of the *Hurri Cano* by the Circles about the Moone) they doe lop off the limbes and great heads off from the Trees, because the violent and outrageous Tempest of the tempestuous Windes shall have the lesse force and power to overturne them ; and especially those Trees which they doe intend to preserve and keepe for bearing of fruite, they doe commonly cut off, and graffe them againe by our English advice. The

The people all of them forsake their Houses, as not daring to remaine in them for feare that they should be blown down about their eares ; at which dangerous times they do creep for safety into holes Caves, pits, Dens and hollow places of the earth, which are either naturall of themselves, or digged and framed by Art or laborious industry of man, which places are good harbours and defences against the Hurry-Cano. They doe likewise tye or make fast *Hamackoes* or hanging *Cabins* unto two Trees that are lopp'd, and then the people do get into those *Cabins*, & so they do lye downe in them, being hang'd above the ground fixe or seaven foot, eyther with strong Ropes or iron chaines ; and so they swing two and againe like a Bell when it is rung, when this tempest is ; their *Hamackoes* are made either of course lining cloath,

cloath, or of strong stufte made of twisted threads spun out of the rindes of trees ; some who have not these Cabins, do for feare bind themselves with cords, singlely or severally to divers trees, and so they do remaine bound untill the fury of the *Hurry-Cano* is past. And this is the true relation of the nature and quality of it, and also partly of the harmes which it did in the moneth of *August* last past. The Indians do fore-know it by certain circles which appear about the *Moone*, and those Indians that are servants under our English, did give some notice, or else far more hurt had insued ; and is when the *Moon* hath divers circles like mists and fogs about it, and of a flaming colour, and by some other signes, the people doe sometimes save themselves and their goods, in making caves or cellers in the ground, or else they loose all.

But

But for a late remarkable prooffe of Gods mercy and power, in drawing good out of Evill; I desire the Reader to note that in the year 1609. eight ships. were bound from *London* unto *Virginia*, Sir *Thomas Gates*, and Sir *George Sommers* Knights, were General and Admirall of the Fleete, and Captaine *Newport* was Vice-Admirall. The Admirall Ship, wherein Sir *George Sommers* was, was by a *Hurry-Cano* disperst and sundred from the rest of the Fleete, and with the greatnesse of the storme driven between two rocks at the Iland of *Bermudas*, where his ship stucke fast, and was there lost and split. But hee landed all his men safe, with some of his chiefeest goods, where hee found good reliefe of Swine, Fisk, and Fowle. But Sir *Thomas Gates* and the other Ships did give Sir *George* with his men to be utterly lost & cast.

(11)

cast away, but he made such shift,
that with Timber that hee found,
and sell'd in the Island, he caused
two Ships to be built, with the
which he sayled from the *Bermu-
daes* to *Virginia*, (after hee had
beene tenne Moneths supposed
dead) where he was most joyful-
ly welcomed: and thus out of this
great danger (which in mans i-
magination was evill) God was
graciously pleased to make it the
happy finding and discovery of
that good and fruitfull Island,
the Plantation whereof is now so
profitable and beneficiall to the
English Adventures; and the
Bermudaes, with some other
Islands, are at this time called
the *Sommer Islands*, in memo-
ry of Sir' *George Sommers*, who
was the first discoverer of them:
and thus much shall suffice for
the true Report and Description
of the *Hurri Cano*.

Innume-

Imnumerable of other the like of such things as these, I have formerly related, and many of them are Recorded in our owne Histories, to have happened in our owne Countrey, which who so doe desire to read more, may see them amply and truely recorded in the workes of the learned *Cambden*, painefull *Speed*, *Stowe*, and *Hoves*, Histories and Chronicles, wherein they may bee certainly inform'd, that former Times have afforded as strange and fearefull Signes and warnings, as this prodigious Tempest and lamentable Accident at *Withycombe*, neare *Dartmoores* in *Devonshiere*, as you may read in these ensuing Verses the whole truth, as followeth.

A true



A true Relation in Verse, of the
 strange accident which hapned at
Witbycombe in Devon-shiere.

TH *Almighty* was, is, shall bee still the same,
 Who with his word did *all* of nothing frame;
 Whose *glory* brightens *all*, whose *Voyce* is *Thunder*.
 Whose *mercy's* o're his works, each work a wonder
 Whose *Powerfull* Arme's not shortned, but his *Wil*,
 (Unlimited) is as his *pleasure* still,
 The sacred *Text* unto our *Faith* presents,
 How God plagu'd sinners with the *Elements*
 Of *Water*, *Earth*, *Ayre*, and consuming *Fire*,
 All Creatures are his Souldiers, in his Ire;
 With means, with small means, with no means at al
 He ayds his flocke; and gives his foes the fall:
 With *Water* he did first the World confound,
 Eight Persons only sav'd, the rest were drown'd;
 When *Sodom's* crying sins, to *Heaven* assum'd,
 By fire from *Heaven* they were consum'd: Inburn'd,
Samarita's Captaines with their fifties, slaine
 By fire, when they *Elias* would have tane;
 When *Corah* did rebell (with heart unhallow'd)
 Th'earth gap'd, him with his cōpanions swallow'd.

B

By

By putred Ayre (for *Ishaies* offence)
 Dy'd seventy thousand of the Pestilence;
 Hee's Lord of Hosts, and when man runs amisse,
 The meanest thing *Gods* mighty *Souldier* is;
 Plagues, Botches, Blaines, all mortall Malladies;
 Grasshoppers, Darknes, Murrain, Frogs, Lice, Flies,
 With *Gedeons* Pitchers, and with *Shamgars* Goade,
 His Enemies he under foot hath trod;
 With *Foxes*, and the *Jaw-bone* of an *Ass*,
 He mighty Myracles hath brought to passe.
 Thus with Contemptible despised things,
 He tameth Tyrans; and He Conquers Kings:
 Thus Heaven, Earth, Hel, Seas, and th'utmost *Crofts*
 Declare him still to be the Lord of Hosts:
 His Power, by *Judeth* (a weake womans hand)
 Slew *Holophornes*, foyld the *Assyrian* Band,
 By *Iachs* hammer'd Naile, and *Dauids* Sling,
 God doth his foes to fell confusion bring:
 Hee's still the same he was, and changeth never,
 But yesterday, to day, the same for ever.
 And now (good Reader) with attentive minde,
 Reade these ensuing lines, and thou shalt finde
 Strange Prodiges, full of amazing feare
 In the Church of *Wishy-combe*, in *Devonshire*,
 Tis worth thy best considerations weight,
 One Thousand Sixteene hundred, thirty eight,
 These signes and sights of terrour chanc'd upon
 A Sunday last, *Octobers* twenty one;

A short space after *Service* did begin,
 (And our best prai'rs are mix'd with too much sin)
 An extreame *Darknesse* did begin to fill
 The Church, which more and more encreased still,
 In such *Cymerian* manner it did spread,
 That none assembled there could see to read:
 The people (all astonish'd) strait way heares
 Most dreadfull Thundring, ratling in their eares,
 With horride sounds, in such a fearefull sort,
 As *Cannons* or great Ordnance in Report,
 Attended with such direfull Lightning flashes,
 As if the world should straight be turn'd to ashes.
 The *darknesse* still increas'd, that mist and smother
 Was wax'd so thicke, one could not see each other:
 The smell like *Brimstone*, and the fire & smoake
 Th'affrighted Congregation seem'd to choake;
 With darknes, smoak, stench,, lightning & thunder;
 Their soules and bodies almost seem'd to sunder.
 Most lamentable were the cases then,
 The cries of children, women, and of men;
 Dispersed in their seates in divers places,
 Some all astonisht groveling on their faces:
 Some on their Knees, did humbly *God* intrete,
 To grant them *Mercy* from his *Mercy* Seate
 Some, one upon another tumbling lay,
 Expecting that should be their latest day;
 Some burnt, & some with scaldings over-spread,
 And every one gave up themselves for dead.

The Pastor of the Parish (Master *Lyde*)¹
 With Christian courage Reading did abide
 And heard and saw, all that was scene and heard
 And was not hurt or bruised; nor sing'd or scar'd,
 But praying for himselfe and for the rest,
 The duty of a good Divine exprest.
 He after saw a lamentable sight,
 His poore Wife in a sad perplexed plight
 In many parts, lightning her body burn'd,
 Her Ruffe and garments were into ashes turn'd :
 To thinke upon the torments that she felt,
 Will make a heart of stone, relent or melt:
 One Mistresse *Disford* with her then was fate
 Within her Powe, and tasted of like fate ;
 She was much scalded, but yet not so bad
 As was the harme that Mistresse *Lyde* than had.
 But God that saveth those that he will save,
 Unto her Maide and child, such favour gave,
 That though the Mistresse was hurt very sore,
 The Maide and child were safe at the Pew doore ;
 Which shewes our lives & healths are no way fixt
 Twixt death and life, oft but a boord betwixt.
 Two women were burnt, scalded, torne, and rent
 The flesh quite from the bones ; incontinent
 Or in a moment, that with paines opprest:
 The one of them that very night decess't :
 The other may perhaps againe be cur'd,
 Hope is her comfort, nothing is assur'd ;

For like to flowers, we bud, we spread, and fade,
 To day a Man, to morrow but a shade.
 One Master *Hill*, (a Gentleman of fame
 And worth) was stricken with the *Sulphur* flame
 As in the Chauncell, he was in his seate,
 The great tempestuous violence was so great,
 It beate his head; against the stony wall
 That he surrendr'd up his life withall:
 And yet his Corps was found unscorch'd & cleare
 For no hurt on his body did appeare.
 A worthy Knight (*Sir Richard Reynolds* nam'd)
 (Who for good House-keeping is lov'd & fam'd
 His Warriner that time, his Scull was cleft
 Three severall waies, his braines beate out and left
 Whole on the ground; against a Pillar there
 Was forcibly beate of his *Scalpe* and *Haire*,
 And there it cleaves fast for a memory,
 And there that man (untimely) then did dye.
 There were some others that were scorcht'd, & frid
 In Lightning flashes, which since then have dy'd;
 Some were but frighted, & scarce harm'd or toucht
 Some were a little Scalded and besmutch'd,
 Some had their cloathes burnt, and their bodies no
 Some had their bodies burnt, their cloaths no jot
 Was touch'd at all; thus *God* in judgement then
 Remembred *Mercy* amongst his full men.
 There were some Seates or Pewes there over-
 And violently turned up-side-downe; (thrown

And yet scarce any Person, great or small
 Was either burnt, or bruised; or hurt at all:
 There was one man in this amazed rout,
 That neere the Chauncell doore was going out,
 His Dog was with a Whirle-wind whisked round,
 And presently fell dead upon the ground.
 The man perceiv'd his dog dead suddenly,
 Stept backe in feare and haste, unhurt thereby.
 The Church in many a place was rent and torne,
 And sundry pieces from their places borne:
 And likewise (with the lightning and the thunder)
 A beame of Timber was burst quite in sunder:
 Betwixt the Minister and the Clarke it flew,
 And hurt them not, but onely brake a Pew.
 Also a mighty Stone the storme did teare,
 That fixed was the Churches bottome neare.
 The Steeple was most strange defac'd & shatter'd,
 And pieces falling down the Church much batter'd.
 A Pinacle was, by th' Tempests forced power,
 Beate through the Church, that fel fro off the tower
 And fro the tower the stones so thick were thrown
 As if a hundred men had hurl'd them downe.
 Yet 'tis not knowne that any hurt was done
 To any one, by fall of wood or stone,
 Onely from *Manat* there came a Maid,
 That by a Stone, was kill'd, as some men said.
 And where the Church was broke, 'tis manifest
 There 't was hurt most, there people were hurt least.

The

The Pulpit to a Pillar there is plac'd,
 Which Pillar is by Lightning much defac'd :
 'Twas newly whited, but with violence blasting,
 It hath a blacke and Sulphury overcasting.
 One in the Chancell happened to espye
 Neare to the Churches neather-end to flye,
 Some things like dust or lyme, which did arise,
 And suddenly it flew into his eyes, (quies
 Where hee for twelve houres space was blinded
 And (by Gods mercy) then regain'd his sight.
 The Thunder and the Lightning being past,
 The people all into amazement cast,
 As if stupidious feare did them benumb,
 Unable scarce to speake, as 'twere strooke dumb:
 Then Master Rowse, a Vintner there,
 Said, Neighbours, in the Name of God. let's cheere
 Our drooping spirits, you see the Church much bro-
 Which doth much danger unto us betoken : (ken,
 And therefore I doe hope, without offence,
 In Gods Name we may venture to go hence.
 These, or the like, spake Rowse, but Master Lyde
 With courage (as bebecm'd his place) reply'd,
 Beloved, of our prayers an end let's make,
 And all of us to God our selves betake :
 Where can we better our soules recommend
 To Him, whose glory never shall have end ?
 Let us beg mercy from the Throne of Grace,
 We cannot better dye than in this place.

These

These good words frō this good man did proceed
 But yet the Congregation all agreed,
 (Because the Church was torne, and fearing more
 Would fall downe from the Roofe unto the floore)
 All to avoide the danger imminent,
 And so with speed each party homeward went.
 Without, or neare the Church-yard was a *Greene*
 Or *Bowling-place*, or *Alley*, which was seene
 Turn'd up in pits and heapes, so that it show'd
 A forme and shape, like Land that's newly plow'd.
 About that time, of Haile a mighty shower
 Did fall, and most impetuously downe powre:
 The *Haile-stones*, bigge as *Turkies Eggs* to sight,
 Some, five, or sixe, and some seven Ounces weight.
 At *Brixton*, neare to *Plimmouth*, this befell,
 What harme it did, Report will after tell.
 'Tis said, that in the County *Sommerfet*,
 At *Norton*, how the Church was hurt much, yet
 Because thereof no certainty we have,
 To future time I will Relation leave.

FINIS.

